

Appl. No. 09/416,757
Amdt. Dated November 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 6, 2003
Attorney Docket No. P1212B-2/040010-440
EUS/J/P/03-6084

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Amendments

The Applicants have amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 1-4 and 8-15 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,477,644 issued to Turunen (Turunen). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner and have further amended independent Claim 1 to more clearly and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants believe as their invention.

The Turunen reference discloses a mobile internet access system wherein a mobile host traveling into a foreign network is assigned with a "care-of-address" IP address. However, packets intended for that particular mobile host are still delivered to a home network associated with the mobile host. If the mobile host is connected to the home network, the function of a "home agent" is off so that the home agent does not alter the flow of datagrams from the internet, for example, to the network's router and to the mobile host. However, if the mobile host is registered with a foreign network, the home agent makes such a determination and forwards the received datagrams to the registered "care-of-address" IP address. This forwarding allows the home agent to forward the received datagrams to the mobile host traveling within the foreign network. (Turunen, Col. 2, lines 18-53).

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Applicants respectfully submit that Turunen fails to disclose or teach each and every element of the presently claimed invention. More specifically, Turunen fails to disclose or teach the claimed step of "receiving packets, associated with a session, over a first connection in a first data communication network wherein said first connection is handled by a first gateway associated with said first data communications network." Even though Applicants disagree with the Examiner's statement that Turunen's home and foreign agents are equivalent to the presently claimed first gateway and second gateway, Turunen explicitly stated that in the event the "mobile host is registered with its home network, the functionality of the network's home agent is off for that host so that the home agent does not alter the flow of datagrams from the internet to the network's router and the mobile host." (Turunen, Col. 2. lines 18-23). Accordingly, the home agent as described in Turunen is a mere forwarding agent and is not involved in handling the connection when the mobile station is registered with the home network. The presently claimed invention, on the other hand, recites a first gateway that handles the first connection within the first data communications network (home network). Applicants submit that Turunen fails to disclose or teach such a "first gateway" as presently claimed.

Additionally, Turunen also fails to disclose the step of establishing a tunnel between the first gateway associated with the first data communications network and said second gateway before routing packets over said established tunnel. Turunen merely talks about the home agent forwarding received datagrams to the registered "care-of-address" IP address. In accordance with the teachings of the present invention, a tunnel is first established between the first gateway and the second

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gateway and then the packets are routed from the first gateway to the second gateway over the established tunnel. Other than merely describing the process of forwarding packets from the home agent to the foreign agent using the "care-of-address", Turunen simply fails to disclose or teach the step of establishing a tunnel between the two gateways.

Applicants believe independent Claim 1 is now patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, since Turunen fails to disclose or teach the step of establishing a tunnel between the two gateways, different embodiments of establishing such tunnel between the two gateways as further claimed by dependent Claims 2 and 3 are further not anticipated or rendered obvious by Turunen. Applicants believe remaining dependent Claims are similarly dependent on now allowable independent Claim 1 and recite limitations thereto and, are each considered to be distinguished over the art for the same reasons as given in support thereof.

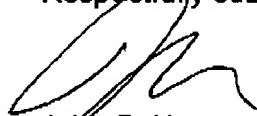
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-4 and 8-15.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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